

Swami Vivekananda's Views on Education

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ABSTRACT:

Wealth of a country is assessed on the brains of resourceful human beings that the country has rather than the physical and material wealth. Therefore the need of the hour is that educational institutions should involve themselves on imparting knowledge, skill and value based education to students to achieve total empowerment of youth who are the future of our country. This can be achieved only by education that imparts values of life to children. Education devoid of values may be detrimental to society in long run. This value education will lead to the development of strong minds. Swami Vivekananda rightly points out the defect of the present day education and advocates that the end of all education is man-making. He also covers that the education should give the knowledge of love and a set of values. Only a value based education can give youth the sense of living for others. As swami Vivekananda said, "They alone live who live for others". When the education gives not only technical knowledge and skill but also development of the social, moral and spiritual side of the youth then it can be called a complete and total education. It is the education that Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, former president of India, emphasized when he said "For education to be complete; it should include not only the training of the intellect but also the refinement of the heart and discipline of the soul".

According to Swami Vivekananda, education should aim at bringing out the excellence in man. In other words, education should aim at bringing out the human excellence. Generally it shows that education in the real sense of the term; should be Man-Making, Character-Molding and Life-Building. Education should not consist in merely getting by heart, the reading and re-producing it in the examination without digesting it. On the other hand, education should consist in the assimilation of ideas, like the food that we take get digested and assimilated in our blood stream.

As Swami Vivekananda would say, if we study ten ideas and assimilate at least one idea and practice it in our life time, then education can be said to have served its purpose. This is he calls man-making, life building, character molding Education.

In short, the educational pattern should become human value oriented. But present educational patterns do not aim at bringing out human excellence. It does not make a person fit to face the challenges in life. It has made men able quill drivers.

Total transformation of the attitude of the individual alone is the remedy. The selfishness and the materialistic attitude are the responsible for all ills of the individuals. The degradation of values and consequently of actions must be substituted by the spiritual attitude. That education is the only instrument which can bring about this transformation.

Towards this end, the present educational pattern should be so restructured as to highlight, emphasize and integrated this essential spiritual aspect of Indian Culture with every one of the disciplines being offered in schools, colleges and universities, to be taught from the primary school level onwards.

After all, it is only "From small seeds that tall Oaks grow".

Swami Vivekananda's Views on Education

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902), a great thinker and reformer of India, embraces education, which for him signifies man-making as the very mission of his life. He was not only a Philosopher but also a religious, cultural and social reformer. His aim was 'Welfare of all' irrespective of caste, creed and colour.

There is lot to learn from his view's on education. He puts lot of emphasis on physical education, moral education, medium language of education, women education and education for weaker section of society.

Swamiji attempts to establish, through his words and deeds, that the end of all education is man making. He prepares the scheme of this man-making education in the light of his over-all philosophy of Vedanta. According to Vedanta, the essence of man lies in his soul, which he possesses in addition to his body and mind. In true with this Philosophy, Swamiji defines education as the manifestation of perfection already in man. The aim of education to manifest in our lives the perfection, which is the very nature of our inner self. This perfection is the realization of the infinite power which resides in everything and everywhere- existence, consciousness and bliss (Sachidananda). After understanding and achieving this one will have to eliminate one's ego, ignorance and all other false identification, which stand in the way.

In this scheme of education , Swamiji lays great stress on physical health because a sound mind resides in a sound body. i.e, the self cannot be realized by the physically weak. By his Philosophy of education, Swamiji thus bring it home that education is not a mere accumulation that is put into your brain and runs riot there undigested, all your life. Education for him means that process by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, and intellect is sharpened, as a result of which one can stand on one's own feet. The basic purpose of education is the total development of human personality. He realizes that it is only through education that the uplift of masses is possible. It is high time that we give serious thought to his philosophy of education and remembers his call to everybody- Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached.

The supreme goal of education should be to strive for achieving 'self-control' and 'detachment' from the worldly affairs like 'pleasure' and 'pain'. Ultimately a selfless, dispassionate learner can only enjoy the freedom of soul i.e., emancipation from the bonds of 'illusion' and liberation from the 'self' through 'salvation', which is the highest state of existence (Existence-Knowledge-Bliss)

Wealth of a country is assessed on the brains of resourceful human beings that the country has rather than the physical and material wealth. Therefore the need of the hour is that educational institutions should involve themselves on imparting knowledge, skill and value based education to students to achieve total empowerment of youth who are the future of our country. This can be achieved only by education that imparts values of life to children. Education devoid of values may be detrimental to society in long run. This value education will lead to the development of strong minds. Swami Vivekananda rightly points out the defect of the present day education and advocates that the end of all education is man-making. He also covers that the education should give the knowledge of love and a set of values. Only a value based education can give youth the sense of living for others. As swami Vivekananda said, "They alone live who live for others". When the education gives not only technical knowledge and skill but also development of the social, moral and spiritual side of the youth then it can be called a complete and total education. It is the education that Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, former president of India, emphasized when he said "For education to be complete; it should include not only the training of the intellect but also the refinement of the heart and discipline of the soul".

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